THOMAS LINCOLN MMS. DRAWER 1 FATHER - THOMAS LINCOLN

71 2009.085 0536

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Thomas Lincoln Family

Thomas Lincoln Documents

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009 05864

I Charles Helm as Deputy Sheriff for Hardin county, summoned the following persons as a guard to assist me in conducting prisoner safely in the custody of the public Jail of Hardin County Kentucky, Alexander James Wilson charged with having passed counterfeit money, agreeable to a warrant to me directed from Asa Coombes a Justice of the peace for Hardin county, and that they continued as guards the number of days annexed to their names.

Jewith, Henry Ewin six days
Thomas Lincoln same
Jesse Harris four days
William Allen same
~~George Helm one day~~
Nathaniel Mickliff ~~two days~~ one day.

Given under my hand this 20th day of October 1803.

Chas Helm D
Philip Rue D

Philip P. Sang Collection

This indenture made and agreed upon this 3rd of may 1837 Between Thomas Lincoln & Sarah Lincoln his wife of the County of Coles and State of Illinois of the one part & Alexander Mongumary of the County and State aforesaid of the other part witnesseth that the said Thomas Lincoln & Sarah his wife for & in consideration of the Sum of one hundred and forty Dollars Current money of the State of Ill.s to them in hand paid before the execution of these presents by the said Alexander Mongumary the receipt is hereby acknowledged have granted bargained & Sold and by these presents do grant bargain Sell & Confirm unto the said Alexander Mongumary his heirs & forever a Certain tract of Land in the County and State aforesaid Known and designated as the North West quarter of the South West quarter of Section No 10 Township Eleven North of the base Line in range number Eight East of the third principal meridian containing Forty acres To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of Land with the appertainances there unto belonging to the only proper use benefit & behoof of him the said Alexander Mongumary and his heirs forever and the said Thomas Lincoln & Sarah his wife for their Selves and heirs do further Covenant and agree to and with him the said Alexander Mongumary his heirs & that they will warrant and defend the aforesaid tract or parcel of Land with all the appertainance hereditaments and advantages thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining from themselves and heirs and from every other person or persons whatsoever in Witness Whereof the said Thomas Lincoln & Sarah Lincoln his wife hath hereunto Subscribed there names and affixed there Seales the day first Written

Signed Sealed and
delivered pursonly
in Presence
of
David Dyer

Thomas Lincoln Seale
Sarah + Lincoln Seale
mark

Kentucky State Hist. Soc. 1930

THOMAS LINCOLN'S ACCOUNTS WITH ELIZABETHTOWN MERCHANTS.

By O. M. Mather, Hodgenville, Ky.

The accounts of Thomas Lincoln with the mercantile firm of Bleakley & Montgomery, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, covering the period from July 30, 1804, to June 3, 1808, are preserved in two original ledgers of these merchants which have been kept for more than a century in the hands of descendants of Robert Bleakley, the senior member of the firm. These books are now in possession of Dr. James C. Montgomery, of Elizabethtown, to whom the writer is indebted for the privilege of making copies from the four pages on which the name of Thomas Lincoln appears, and which are here given. Dr. Montgomery has also permitted photostatic copies of these four pages—two from Ledger "A" and two from Ledger "B"—to be made for the library of the Filson Club, of Louisville.

The firm of Bleakley & Montgomery was composed of Robert Bleakley and William Montgomery, two Scotch-Irishmen who in early manhood were exiled from their native land on account of being Orangemen, and who after a brief stay in Virginia, where they married sisters, reached Elizabethtown about the year 1801. They opened a store on the Public Square in a log house, and according to Samuel Haycraft in his History of Elizabethtown (page 105) "soon became very popular" and did a thriving business.

To the majority of the people of this day, even of those who are students of Lincoln, it may be surprising that Thomas Lincoln, whose reputation as a man of business has been had excellent

Item available in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana

For contact information, go to www.LincolnCollection.org.

cases when only one or two articles are charged, the entries are made as "sundries" with reference to the folio or page of the journal showing the items in detail.

These two ledgers are designated as "A" and "B," respectively. Hence, it may be inferred that they were the first two ledgers which were used by the firm of Bleakley & Montgomery.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 788 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA May 15, 1944

DOCUMENTS FOR THE LINCOLN ANCESTRAL RECORDS

There seems to be a reluctance on the part of many historians to lay aside purely traditional data, though it may be contradicted by duly authorized public records. While some errors do creep into the manuscripts, they are usually much more accurate than memories. If we are to have a dependable history of Lincoln's ancestry, it must be gleaned from contemporary writings rather than from handed down reminiscences.

There has never been an adequate appreciation of the valuable historical source material to be found in the papers recording the proceedings of the numerous land suits tried in the pioneer day. This is especially true in Kentucky where the title to property was so uncertain, because of overlapping surveys and the haphazard method of making land entries. Affidavits made by the earliest pioneers and other records kept by county officers contain what is unquestionably our most authentic data relating to the frontiersmen who moved out beyond the Alleghenys.

Apparently Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the President, was inoculated with the western fever some time between September 6, 1779 and February 18, 1780. On the former date he acquired a tract of land by purchase to increase the extent of his Shenandoah Valley farm, but on the latter date he sold this estate on Linville Creek for the sum of "5000 pounds current money of Virginia." His wife, Bersheba, joined with him in signing the deed of conveyance. Within three weeks after the sale of the property Abraham purchased his first land warrant good for 400 acres of land in Kentucky, for which he paid 160 pounds. At this rate per acre he would have been able to buy over 12000 acres of Kentucky land with the money received for his Virginia property.

He was not so fortunate in another purchase, however, because land warrant No. 14487, which he acquired on September 26, 1782, cost him 3630 pounds, and it called for only 2268½ acres. There is evidence that he made an effort to enter a tract of land with this warrant and apparently had some kind of an agreement with a certain John Read to have it surveyed. However, at the time of the pioneer Lincoln's massacre by the Indians no settlement between Lincoln and Read had been made and the transaction between them, whatever it may have been, was soon in litigation.

Possibly the most valuable collection of papers extant, referring to Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of the President, was discovered by the editor of *Lincoln Lore* many years ago in the suit which Mordecai Lincoln, oldest son of the pioneer, had brought against the heirs of John Read. It was an attempt to secure a title to a part of the 2269½ acres of land which had apparently been lost to the Lincolns, partly through an alleged forging of the pioneer's name to the warrant.

In the bill against Read, Mordecai affirmed that the pioneer "Abraham Lincoln departed this life on May 1786 without will and your orator his oldest son became entitled to the land aforesaid as heir at law to the said Abraham Lincoln." This brief picture settled for all time four very important facts: the date of the massacre, that Lincoln died intestate, that Mordecai was his oldest son, and that the law of primogeniture was in force at the time.

The President was under the impression that his grandfather, for whom he was named, was killed by the Indians in 1784. In a letter written to Solomon Lincoln, on March 6, 1848, Congressman Lincoln stated that his grandfather went to Kentucky "about the year 1782 and two years afterwards was killed by the Indians."

This same suit, Lincoln vs. Read, contains a deposition by Thomas Lincoln, of Lexington, Kentucky, brother of the pioneer Abraham, which forever settles the question of how the Lincolns spelled their name.

"Question by complainant (Mordecai Lincoln).

"Do you know how my father Abraham Lincoln spelt his name?

"Ans.—He spelt his name ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"Q. Are you acquainted with Abraham Lincoln's handwriting?

"Ans. I am, having lived near him and seen his writing often.

"Q. Do you believe the signature to assignation on a treasury warrant of 2269½ acres No. 14487 to John Read, Nov. 24, 1783, where it is spelt Abraham Linkorn is the signature of the Abraham Lincoln.

"Ans. I have examined this signature this day in the registers' office and do not believe it is the said Abraham Lincoln's handwriting."

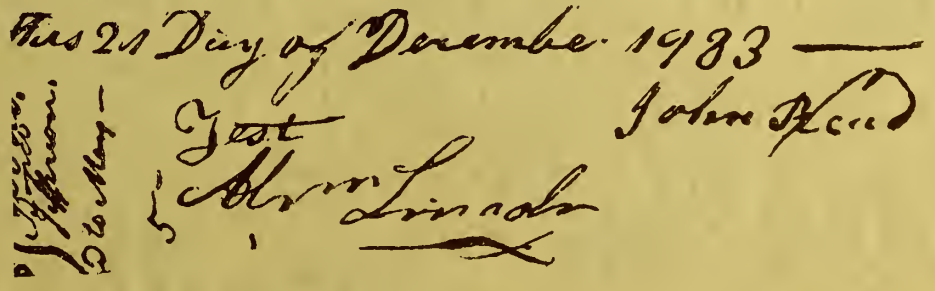
Now a more recent discovery by the editor of *Lincoln Lore* has brought to light a document bearing the actual signatures of the pioneer Lincoln and this John Read. It was signed within one month of the time that the alleged land transaction took place. The endorsement on this newly discovered paper is as follows:

"I do hereby assign over the within note unto Cally George it being for value received of her as witness my hand this 21 Day of December 1783.

"John Read

"Test
"Abrm Lincoln"

The above date and signatures are reproduced in this bulletin from a photostatic copy of the document. It seems to offer added proof that the alleged Lincoln signature on the land warrant assigned to John Read was a forgery.



Thomas Lincoln's Name In Ledger Acquired By State

The 114-year-old ledger of a Charleston store where Thomas Lincoln, father of the Civil war president, had an account, has been acquired by the Illinois state historical library, Dr. Harry E. Pratt, state historian, said yesterday.

The book is 11 by 17 inches and originally contained about 250 pages. However, 40 or so are missing, as are the covers. The volume was found in the town creek at Charleston in 1876 by the late M. G. Brown of that city and had been the property of his family ever since. Existence of the ledger was reported to Prof. Charles H. Coleman, of Eastern Illinois State college, by one of his students, Jennie Fern Brown, of Charleston, who later was instrumental in obtaining it for the library.

The name of this store where Abraham Lincoln's father traded is not known. The earliest date given in the book is Jan. 2, 1837, and the latest is July 9, 1840. The ledger does not tell what the elder Lincoln bought but merely lists the amounts as they would be carried forward from the daily sales.

There are 28 entries under Thomas Lincoln's name and the amounts range all the way from 6 1/2 cents to $4.31 1/4, except for the first one which is for $9.97. This, according to Dr. Pratt, probably indicates that it was transferred from an earlier ledger. The last note on the Thomas Lincoln account reads: "Carried forward Feb. 26, 1839, $47.31."

At that time Thomas Lincoln was living where Lincoln log cabin state park now stands. This was nearly 10 miles from where the store is thought to have been. "Each entry presumably meant a separate day's purchases," said Dr. Pratt, "and, with transportation what it was in those times, Lincoln's father probably didn't get to the store more than once every two weeks or so. Thus the 28 entries in this ledger must represent a year or more in purchases." During this year or so Tom Lincoln ran up a bill of $57.31, including the $9.97 carried forward from the earlier ledger, and made one payment of $10.

The first page of this century-old book contain an index of the accounts. About half of the alphabet is missing but there are still more than 275 names left. This would indicate that the store had some 500 active accounts, which would make it a large establishment for 1840, when the entire population of Coles county was less than 10,000.

Incidentally, on the day that his father's account was being "carried forward" in Charleston—Feb. 26, 1839 — Abraham Lincoln was representing Sangamon county in the state legislature then meeting at Vandalia.

EASTERN ILLINOIS STATE COLLEGE
Department of Social Science
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

16 July 1951

Dear Dr. Warren:

Knowing your interest in Thomas Lincoln, I am passing on to you an item brought to my attention by a member of my class in local history. I have copied the entry as it appears, making allowance for my poor typing. Entries on other pages make it clear that the store concerned was a general store, kept by a man who owned a mill, and possibly operated a farm in addition. Numerous accounts were settled by labor, and one by work on a dam and a saw pit. A few of the accounts show items purchased. Among these, in addition to those carried in a general store, are items of meal and one states "account at the mill - 33.64". All of this leads me to believe that the accounts were kept by John Parker, miller and store keeper, one of the first settlers of the County (1824) and the operator of the first mill. But I am not certain.

Thanks again for your courtesy to Mrs. Coleman and to me when we were in Fort Wayne in June of last year. My manuscript, "Abraham Lincoln and Coles County", is about completed. I am waiting to look in the Barrett Collection as soon as the State acquires it, to put on the finishing touches.

Cordially,

Charles H. Coleman

Charles H. Coleman

Account of Thomas Lincoln in account book of unidentified general store located in Charleston, Illinois. The earliest date appearing in the book is January 2, 1837, Numerous accounts have the notation "Carried to Ledger W, July 9, 1840". There is no date later than July 9, 1840, in the book. The entries evidently are transferred from a "day book", the pages of which are represented by the numbers in parentheses. The Thomas Lincoln account is on page 129, and bears the notation "carried forward, Feb. 26th, 1839". During the period covered by this account Thomas Lincoln was living in what is now Pleasant Grove Township of Coles County, Illinois. The account is as follows:

Thomas Lincoln Dr		Contra		Cr
(157) 9.97 (183) 37¼ (187) 1.75 (189) 2.63 (200) 2[illegible]12¼	16.84½		(622) 10.00	10.00
(206) 1.71 (342) 2.67 (281) 50 (357) 3.00	7.88		Carried forward Feb. 26th, 1839	47.31
(377) 96 (392) 1.53 (393) 12½	2.61½			
(416) 56¼ (462) 4.31¼ (516) 80	5.67½			
	33.01½			57.31
	2.15			
(536) 19 (556) 6½ (566) [illegible]				
(573) 12½	2.53			
(689) 4.05 (22) 3.38 (35) 2.38 (167) 2.87	12.70			
(79) 2.56 (82) 38 (90) 3.69 (133) 1.44	8.07			
	56.31½			
(183) 1.00	1.00			
	57.31			

Page number (342) probably should be (242), and (167) should be (68). This would mean that the entries were taken from two books, with page numbers running from 157 to 689, and from 22 to 183. Note also that the subtotal 12.70 should be 12.68, an error of 2 cents.

The account book was found in the Town Branch of Charleston in the year 1876. The front of the book consists of an index. The pages A through O are missing. The last page is numbered 200, although there are numerous references to accounts being carried forward to page numbers higher than 200. I estimate that some 30 or 40 pages are missing at the end. The cover is missing.

The book was found by the late M. G. Brown of this city. It now is in the possession of the family, and was shown to me by Miss Jennie Fern Brown, a student in one of my classes.

Charles H. Coleman
Eastern Illinois State College
Charleston, Illinois

July 16, 1951.

Dennis Hanks + Squire Hall also have accounts in this book.

July 18, 1951

Mr. Charles H. Coleman
Department of Social Science
Eastern Illinois State College
Charleston, Illinois

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Thank you kindly for your letter of the 16th with its enclosure of the Thomas Lincoln account.

Dr. Warren is out of the office on vacation. Upon his return I will bring your letter to his attention.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Moellering
Secretary to Dr. Warren

m/m

Thos Lincoln

August 1, 1951

Mr. Charles H. Coleman
Department of Social Science
Eastern Illinois State College
Charleston, Illinois

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Back at my desk I find your very interesting letter of July 16 with its enclosure and we are happy indeed to have it for our Thomas Lincoln file. I wish the items might have been more fully described so we would know what he was purchasing. Thank you nevertheless for your thoughtfulness in forwarding the information.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JM
L.A.Warren

Director

Four Hundred Twenty Three F Street
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

August 3, 1956

(1)

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Gentlemen:

I am in possession of a Bible known as Benson's Commentary, which was printed in 1823 by J & J Harper, printers, and published by N. Bangs and T. Mason. This Bible is autographed by a Tom Lincoln and was dated at Little Pigeon Creek, Indiana in the year 1825. I was wondering if this could be the signature of Abraham Lincoln's father and if they ever lived at the above location.

I would appreciate hearing from you if there is any historic or monetary value to such a book.

Yours very truly,

Bert Head

Bert Head

Osterwald Edition 1799
Spencer County, Ind

1816
14
1836

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO
MAIL DEPARTMENT
Reply to
REC'D AUG 7 1956 W
Answered
LIFE INSURANCE CO

August 10, 1956

Mr. Bert Head
423 F. Street
Eureka, California

Dear Mr. Head:

I'm glad to have your letter of August 3 and learn that you have a Bible which may have once been the property of Thomas Lincoln. It is true that Thomas Lincoln lived in Indiana from the year 1816 to the year 1830. In otherwords Abraham Lincoln resided in Indiana for a period of 14 years, in Spencer County on Little Pigeon Creek.

You state that your Bible or Benson's Commentary is autographed by Tom Lincoln. With this letter I am enclosing a photostat of Thomas Lincoln's signature in order that you might compare the two. Will you please return to me the photostat of the Thomas Lincoln Document.

A Tom Lincoln Bible is now the property of the Government. This Bible was compiled by the Rev. Mr. Ostervald. Here at the Lincoln National Life Foundation we have an identical copy of the Bible which was in the Tom Lincoln home. Of course it is possible that he may have owned more than one Bible.

After you look into this matter a little further will you please let me know whether or not you think you own an original Thomas Lincoln Bible.

Thanking you for bringing this matter to our attention, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Director

RGMcMurtry/ch

BERT'S
STATIONERY

Four Hundred Twenty Three F Street
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

(2)

Aug. 15, 1956

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Att: Dr. R. Gerald McMurty

Gentlemen:

Enclosed I am returning to you your photo copy of the signature of Thomas Lincoln along with a photo copy taken of the signature of the one in the Bible in my possession. They appear to comparevery favorably with some small differences but undoubtedly a handwriting expert could determine if they are the dame. I don't know if I mentioned in my first letter that this Bible was compiled by the Rev. Joseph Benson.

I would be interested in hearing further on this matter at your convenience. Thank you.

Yours very truly,

Bert Head

Bert Head

Tom Lincoln
Little Pigeon Creek
Indiana 1825

August 22, 1956

Mr. Bert Head
423 F Street
Eureka, California

Dear Mr. Head:

I have your letter of August 15 in which you enclosed the photostat of the signature which appears in the Bible that you own.

Of course your problem is a puzzling one and I suppose that you will never be able to definitely determine whether or not you own a Bible containing an authentic signature of Lincoln's father.

In comparing the two signatures I am inclined to believe that Thomas Lincoln would have signed his name Thomas rather than Tom however, there might have been some exceptions to this rule.

I hope that you will be able to definitely determine the authenticity of this relic. Perhaps if you were to go into the background of the ownership of the book that might solve the problem for you.

Thanking you for bringing this matter to our attention, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Director

RGMcMurtry/ch

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1479 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA May, 1961

THE BLEAKLEY & MONTGOMERY LEDGERS

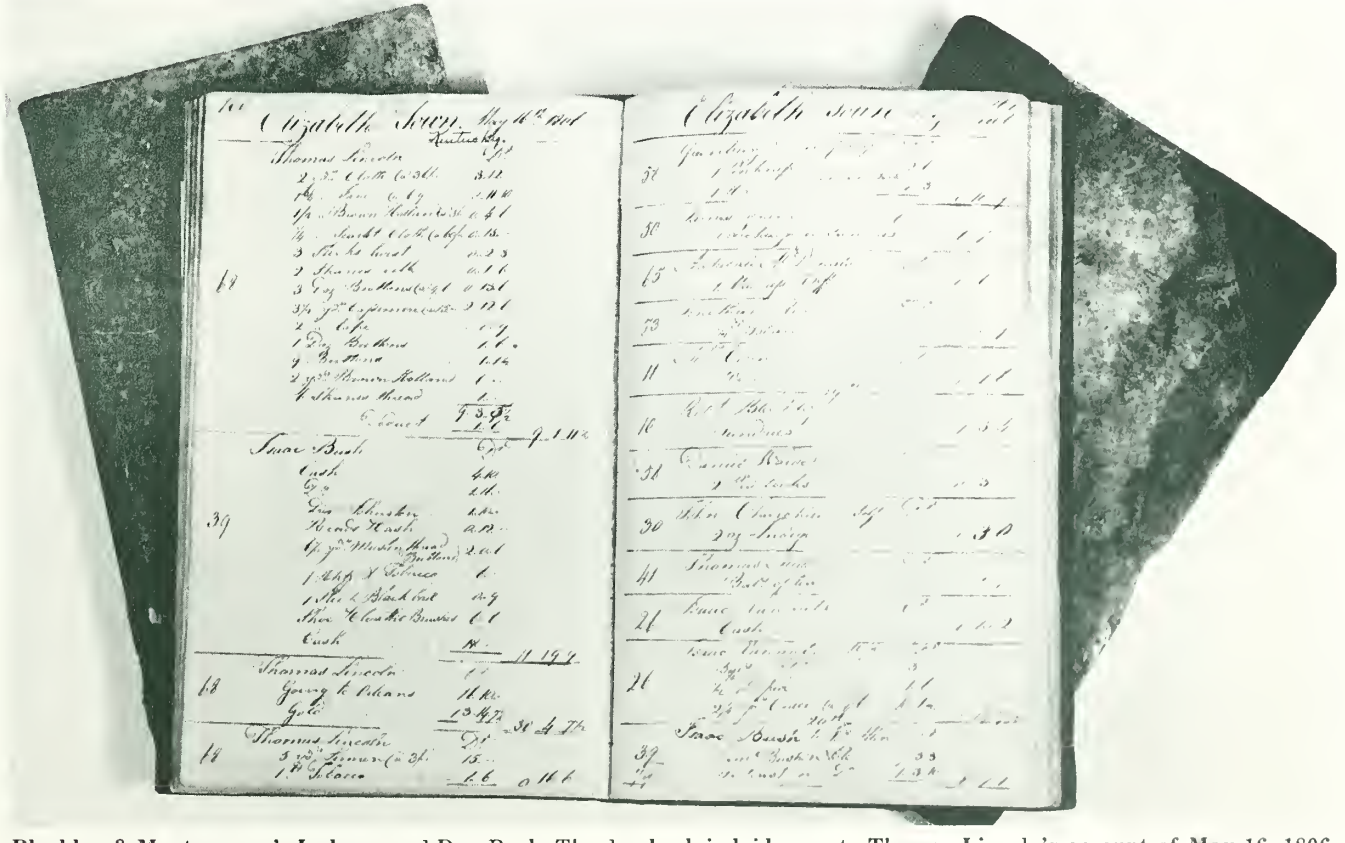
The financial standing of Abraham Lincoln's father is best portrayed by a study of his accounts in Bleakley & Montgomery's ledgers and day book which are a part of the collection of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

These accounts of Thomas Lincoln with the Elizabethtown, Kentucky mercantile firm cover the period from July 30, 1804 to June 3, 1808. The account books are designated as Ledger "A" and Ledger "B". There is also a day book for the period of June 1, 1805 to November 22, 1806. The twenty Thomas Lincoln entries in the day book begin with the date of August 23, 1805 and end with the date of November 12, 1806.

It is believed that the Ledgers "A" and "B" were the first two used by the firm of Bleakley & Montgomery. This mercantile firm was composed of Robert Bleakley and William Montgomery who arrived in Elizabethtown about the year 1801. Previous to this they found employment in the same establishment in Baltimore, Maryland. The two partners were Scotch-Irishmen who in early manhood were expelled from their country because they were Orangemen. According to Samuel Haycraft, Jr., the author of "A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky and Its Surroundings" (written in 1869) Montgomery "was arrested and confined in a prison from which men were taken and executed daily. Montgomery was released from prison through the interposition of his aunt, who was the wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on the condition that he would emigrate to America."

Haycraft relates that "Bleakley who was engaged in the same rebellion, evading the officers of the government, concealed himself in a vessel and thus made his escape to the United States. They married sisters, two of the daughters of William Withers, Esq., a very respectable Virginia gentleman near West Point (Kentucky)." The Kentucky historian stated that "perhaps their stock of goods was the first that deserved the name of an assortment."

Haycraft thought that "There is something romantic and interesting in the history of these two men. Born on the same Island, engaged in the same rebellion, both compelled to leave to save their lives; emigrating to the same country, finding employment in the same establishment in the city of Baltimore, partners in merchandising in Elizabethtown, marrying sisters and then living



Bleakley & Montgomery's Ledgers and Day Book. The day book is laid open to Thomas Lincoln's account of May 16, 1806.

and dying on adjacent farms." Yet, in spite of their exciting life history these two men are only remembered by Lincoln students as merchants who did business with the father of the sixteenth president.

The store was located on the Public Square in a log house. The building was located on Lot No. 6 on the corner of the square which is now occupied by the First Hardin National Bank. Bleakley & Montgomery did a thriving business and were very popular citizens of the county seat town.

These early merchants conducted their business under the English monetary system of pounds, shillings and pence. However, there are occasional entries of payments in dollars and cents. Unfortunately, all the day books of the period of Thomas Lincoln's purchases are not extant and for that reason it is impossible to determine every item he purchased. Many times the merchants would enter several purchases in the ledgers as "Sundries" with reference to the folio or page in the day book which listed the items in detail.

The early biographers of the sixteenth president, without exception, depicted Thomas Lincoln as an indolent pioneer without money and with no financial responsibility in his community. But the Bleakley & Montgomery ledgers reveal that he had excellent credit and that his purchases were not inconsiderable. Thomas Lincoln was evidently considered by this firm as a valued customer. In fact an examination of his account reveals that he not only purchased on credit, but that he was even charged with sizeable sums for his friends and relatives.

Otis M. Mather, writing for *The Register of the Kentucky State Historial Society*, January, 1930, Vol. 28, No. 82, in an article entitled "Thomas Lincoln's Accounts With Elizabethtown Merchants" observed that "Thomas Lincoln began making purchases soon after Ledger 'A' was opened, but his transactions with the firm ceased long before Ledger 'B' was discarded." Ledger "B" has accounts running as late as the year 1810.

From all indications Thomas Lincoln's last transaction was made on June 3, 1808, when he purchased "sandpaper and screws," for which he was charged one shilling and three pence. One entry for the same date follows: "Bals put to the credit of work done. His note 12 (shillings)." This credit squared his account.

The reason for Thomas Lincoln's failure to make further purchases from Bleakley & Montgomery's store can be attributed to the fact that it was about this time (date of last purchase) that he contemplated moving to the Sinking Spring farm located on the South Fork of Nolin River. However, he did not get a title to the farm until, December 1808, when he bought it from his future brother-in-law, Isaac Bush. From the summer or fall of 1808, until his removal to Indiana in the fall of 1816, Thomas Lincoln lived a distance from fourteen to eighteen miles from Elizabethtown and the friendly merchants.

In analysing Thomas Lincoln's accounts Otis M. Mather made the following statements:

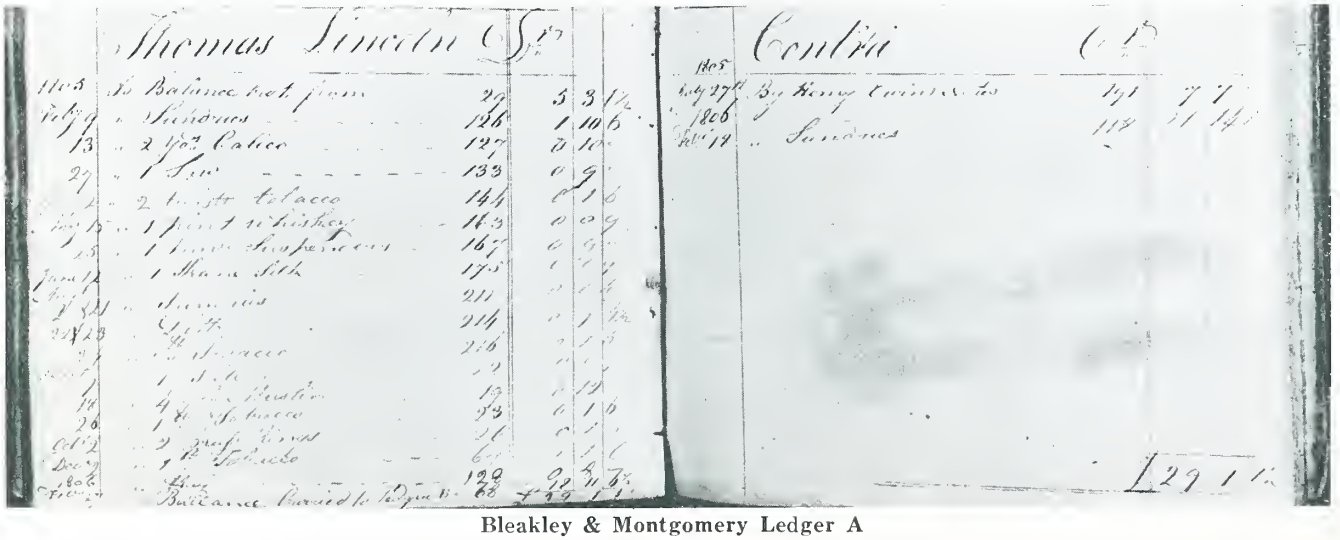
"It is of interest to note that in the statement of Thomas Lincoln's account there are charges for many tools pertaining to his trade as a carpenter—one cast steel (casteel) saw, on August 8, 1804, one plane bit, September 6, 1804; one file, November 10, 1804; one saw, February 27, 1805; and others. The item of '1 Fiddle Bass,' on November 6, 1804, for which he was charged 1 shilling and six pence, must have been a fiddle string. Though Thomas Lincoln has not been mentioned in history as a musician, this purchase would indicate that he was possibly a fiddler in his early days, and this accomplishment may have been some attraction to the young lady who was soon to be his bride. And the charge of one pound and sixteen shillings . . . for a hat, on January 1, 1805, is persuasive evidence that Thomas wore no slouch when he went a-wooing. A pair of suspenders for nine shillings . . . which he purchased on May 25, 1805 should have been sufficiently ornamental for any rustic Beau Brummel.

"A pint of whiskey and a pound or two of tobacco now and then indicated that Thomas was not wholly averse to the superfluities of life. But let it be said for him that his purchases of whiskey were much less frequent than the average for the customers of Bleakley & Montgomery.

"Perhaps the most interesting of the entries are those of the Spring of the year 1806, when Thomas Lincoln was about to become the head of a family of his own. On March 1 of that year he had to his credit on the books the neat sum of 18 pounds, 11 shillings and 6½ pence . . . On the 16th of May of the same year he was credited with 'Sundries' to the amount of 30 pounds, 4 shillings and 7½ pence. In the meantime his purchases had been small—one half of a calf skin on May 3—possibly this was for his wedding boots—and two charges for 'Sundries' on May 16, one for 16 shillings and 6 pence, the other for 9 pounds, 1 shilling and 11½ pence. On May 20 Isaac Bush made purchases to the amount of 15 pounds on Thomas Lincoln's account. On May 21, and 22, 1806, Thomas purchased 'Sundries' to the goodly amount of 38 pounds, 1 shilling and 8 pence. It would be gratifying to Lincoln students to know the items making up the sum total of these purchases, but we most content ourselves to believe that they represented the final preparation for the wedding . . . On June 2, 1806, a bridle was purchased for 13 shillings and 6 pence. This was probably used on the horse which a few days later carried Thomas to Springfield, Kentucky, where, on June 10, 1806, he signed a marriage bond, and on June 12 he married Nancy Hanks. The honeymoon must have been short, for on June 16, four days after the wedding, we find Thomas again buying 'Sundries' to the amount of 7 shillings and 3 pence from Bleakley & Montgomery, at Elizabethtown."

In making a study of the Bleakley & Montgomery ledgers and day book it is significant to point out that Kentucky and Virginia mercantile firms used a particular sterling of their own and their shilling was worth 16⅔ cents (20 shillings equal 1 pound). Vertification of this may be found in T. S. Berry's "Western Prices Before 1861," page 364. For example, referring to the Thomas Lincoln entry in the Bleakley & Montgomery day book dated May 20, 1806, the entry is for ¼ yard of Scarlet Cloth @ 60 which cost 0 pounds, 15 shillings and 0 pence. This makes the cost of the item exactly $2.50. While this seems to be a big price to pay for one-fourth yard of cloth, the cost was high as it was likely imported and then transported across the mountains. Advances of 100 to 150 percent on such goods over the Baltimore or Philadelphia prices was common in Kentucky in 1806.

Perhaps no better documentary source can be produced than the Bleakley & Montgomery ledgers to attest to Thomas Lincoln's ability to provide for his family the necessities and comforts of life. Certainly we can conclude that during the period from 1804 to 1808 he was a prosperous pioneer.



Bleakley & Montgomery Ledger A
Thomas Lincoln's account from February 9, 1805 to February 27, 1806.

BLEAKLEY & MONTGOMERY DAY BOOK
June 1, 1805 to November 22, 1806

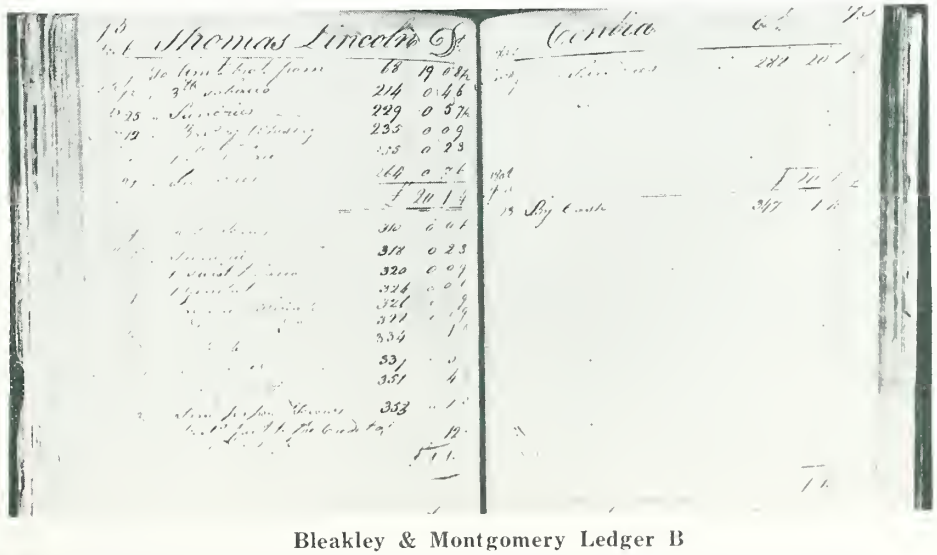
Thomas Lincoln, Dr.

59	214	Aug. 23, 1805	½ Lb. Raisins		1	1½	
			1 Foot Adze		8	3	0.9.4½
68	156	May 3, 1806	½ Calf Skin		3		
68	160	May 16, 1806	2 yds. cloth @ 36	3	12		
			1¾ " Jane @ 6/9		11	10	
			1½ " Brown Holland @ 3		4	6	
			¼ " Scarlet Cloth @ 60		15		
			3 sticks twist		2	3	
			2 skanes Silk		1	6	
			3 Doz. Buttons @ 4/6		13	6	
			3½ yds. Cassimere @ 15	2	12	6	
			2 " tape			9	
			1 Doz. Buttons		1	6	
			9 Buttons		1	1½	
			2 yds. Brown Holland		6		
			6 skanes thread		1		9.3.9½
			Deduct		1	6	9.1.11½
68	160	May 16, 1806	5 yds. Linnen @ 3/		15		
			1 lb. Tobacco		1	6	0.16.6
68	162	May 20, 1806	Thomas Lincoln to Isaac Bush answered for the Latter	15			
68	162	May 21, 1806	3 yds. Coating @ 21/6	3	4	6	
			1½ " Brown Holland @ 3/		4	6	
			1¼ " Red flannel @ 6/		7	6	
			1 ⅔ " Doz. Buttons @ 3/9		6	3	
			2 skanes Silk		1	6	
			1 stick twist			9	
			3 skanes thread			6	
		22	Cash $112.70	33	16	2	38.0.10
68	163	May 24, 1806	Thomas Lincoln pr. order Silk for Mrs. Ogden		12		
68	167	June 2, 1806	1 Tipt Bridle		13	6	
68	168	June 4, 1806	Sundries for Mrs. Johnston		7	6	
68	174	June 16, 1806	½ set Knives & Forks		5		
			3 skanes Silk		2	3	0. 7. 3
68	175	June 20, 1806	1 skane thread			2	
68	176	June 21, 1806	1 shoe knife		1	6	
			2 skanes thread			4	0. 1.10
68	196	Aug. 4, 1806	½ Doz. spoons		6		
			1 lb. Tobacco		1	6	0. 7. 6
68	196	Aug. 6, 1806	Thomas Lincoln answered for	1	4		
68	202	Aug. 14, 1806	Thomas Lincoln answered for Henry Erwin	1			
93	214	Sept. 13, 1806	3 lbs. Tobacco		4	6	
93	229	Oct. 25, 1806	Needles & Whiskey		1	1½	
			¼ Bushel Salt		4	6	
93	235	Nov. 12, 1806	Bals of Whiskey			9	

Contra Cr.

59	118	Feb. 18, 1806	2400 lbs. pork @ 15/	18			
			494 " beef @ 15/	3	14	1½	21.14.1½
68	160	May 16, 1806	Going to Orleans	16	10		
			Gold	13	14	7½	30.4.7½

EDITOR'S NOTE: TWO OF THE ABOVE ENTRIES MERIT SOME NOTICE; NAMELY, "SILK FOR MRS. OGDEN," AND "SUNDRIES FOR MRS. JOHNSTON." DID THESE TWO WOMEN MAKE UP TOM LINCOLN'S WEDDING OUTFIT? MRS. OGDEN WAS THE WIFE OF BENJAMIN OGDEN, A METHODIST PREACHER AND THE KEEPER OF THE KEYS OF THE COURTHOUSE. MRS. JOHNSTON WAS THE WIFE OF DANIEL JOHNSTON (DIED 1816), THE HARDIN COUNTY JAILOR, WHOM TOM LINCOLN WAS DESTINED TO TAKE AS HIS SECOND WIFE ON DECEMBER 2, 1819, NANCY HANKS LINCOLN HAVING DIED ON OCTOBER 5, 1818.



Bleakley & Montgomery Ledger B
Thomas Lincoln's account from September 13, 1806 to June 3, 1808.

BLEAKLEY & MONTGOMERY LEDGER A
1804 - 1806

	1804	Thomas Lincoln	Dr.						1804	Contra	Cr.				
25	July 30-31	Sundries	fo. 19		18			25	Oct. 16	By Beef	63	3			
										" Balance		5	3	1½	
	Aug. 8	1 Casteel Saw	28		18										
	Aug. 15	Sundries	33	3	5	3									
	Aug. 27	Ditto	40		1	6									
	Sept. 6	1 Plane Bit	4		1	6									
	Sept. 27	Sundries	54		3	4½									
	Oct. 8	Ditto	60		6	9									
	Nov. 6	1 Fiddle Bass	71		1	6									
	Nov. 10	1 File	73		1	6									£8.3.1½
	1805								1805						
	Jan. 1	1 Hat	105	1	16			59	July 27	By Henry Ewin Notes	191	7	7		
	Jan. 14	Sundries	109		9	9									
		Balance carried to	59				£8.3.1½								
59		To Balance brot from	29	5	3	1½									
	Feb. 9	Sundries	126	1	10	6									
	Feb. 13	2 yds. Calico	127		10										
	Feb. 27	1 Saw	133		9										
	Apr. 4	2 twists Tobacco	144		1	6									
	May 15	1 pint Whiskey	163			9									
	May 25	1 pair Suspenders	167		9										
	June 12	1 skane Silk	175			9									
	Aug. 20-21	Sundries	211		8	10									
	Aug. 22-23	Ditto	214		9	4½									
	Aug. 24	1 twist Tobacco	216		1	6									
	Sept. 9	1 File	12			9									
	Sept. 18	4 yds. Muslin	19		12										
	Sept. 26	1 twist Tobacco	23		1	6									
	Oct. 2	2 Brass Rings	26		1	6									
	Dec. 2	1 twist Tobacco	67		1	6									
	1806								1806						
	Feb. 27	Hay	128		8	7½		59	Feb. 18	Sundries	118	21	14	1½	£29.1.12
			68												
		Balance Carried to Ledger B	18	11	6½		£29.1.1½								

BLEAKLEY & MONTGOMERY LEDGER B
1805 - 1807 (10)

		Thomas Lincoln	Dr.							Contra	Cr.				
	1806								1806						
68	May 3	½ Calf Skin	156		3				March 1	By Balance brot from					
	May 16	Sundries	160		16	6				Ledger A	59	18	11	6½	
		Do.	"	9	1	1½			May 16	Sundries	160	30	4	1½	
	May 20	Isaac Bush	162	15						Balance		14	6	11½	
	May 21-22	Sundries	"	38	1		£63.3.1½								£63.3.1½
		Balance (to be paid in pork)		14	6	11½									
	May 24	Silk	163		12										
	June 2	1 Bridle	167		13	6									
	June 4	Sundries	168		7	6									
	June 16	Do.	174		7	3									
	June 19	1 skane thread	175			2									
	June 21	Sundries	176			10									
	Aug. 4	Do.	196		7	6									
	Aug. 6	Answered for B.Bromfield	198	1	4										
		" " Henry Ewin	202	1	6		£19.0.8½			By. Amt. Carried to	93				£19.0.8½
93		To. Amt. brot from	68	19		8½									
	Sept. 13	3 tw. Tobacco	214		4	6									
	Oct. 25	Sundries	229		5	7½									
	Nov. 12	Bals of Whiskey	235			9									
	1807								1807						
	Jan. 3	1½ tw. Tobacco	255		2	3									
	Jan. 21	Sundries	264		7	6	£20.1.4	93	March 9	By Sundries	282	20	1	4	£20.1.4
	July 2	½ Doz. Screws	310			6									
	Aug. 4-5	Sundries	318		2	3									
	Aug. 17	1 twist Tobacco	320			9									
	Sept. 19	1 Gimblet	324			6									
	Oct. 3	Calomel & Jallop	326			9									
	Oct. 25	Do. Do.	328			9									
	Nov. 2	1 lb. Tobacco	334		1	6									
	1808								1808						
	Feb. 22	Sundries	339		5	3									
	May 13	3 Doz. Buttons	351		4	6			April 23	By Cash	347	1	10		
	June 3	Sandpaper & Screws	353		1	3									
		Bals. put to the Credit of work done His Note			12		£1.10.0								£1.10.0

EDITOR'S NOTE: THERE IS A MAY 20, 1806 ENTRY ON PAGE 39 OF LEDGER B INDICATING THAT THOMAS LINCOLN (folio 162) CREDITED THE ACCOUNT OF ISAAC BUSH IN THE AMOUNT OF £15. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF BOOKKEEPING THERE ARE LIKELY MANY DISCREPANCIES IN THESE ACCOUNTS DUE TO THE FRAGMENTARY CONDITION OF THE LEDGERS.

1911

1609 Burrows Int
Lunch memorial Tablet
q. a. R.

1924 Tunst
Souvenir – Birthday

1909

Birthday – Centenarth – Anniversary
Bicentenarth –
1649 – a. s. n. – Jersey city (10½ × 7)
1653 – Alexander Mary – (Mary)
1666 Jacobsmeyn – 3 d Habits

1806	Cr. 24 00 cb	pork @ 15	18.0.0	
Feb 18	494 cb	beef @ 15	3.14.1½	
			21.14.1½	
March	Sundries with Mills			
	Thomas Rowles		0 8.0	
	Jean Smith		0.8.0	
	Goat		2 8 0	
			1.4.0	

May 3 ½ calf skins 0.3.0

Page 160	3 entries	May 16	
Page 162	2 entries	May 20	
" 163	1 entry	May 22	
" 167	1 entry	May 31	
" 168	1 entry	June 4	Mary
" 174	1 entry	June 14	
" 175	1 entry	June 20	
" 196	1 entry	Aug 4	
" 198	1 entry	Aug 6	
" 202	1 entry	Aug 14	
" 214	1 entry	Sept 13	
" 229	1 entry	Oct 25	
" 235	1 entry	Nov 12	

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
— OF —
THOS. LINCOLN & NANCY HANKS.

MARRIAGE BOND AND CERTIFICATE OF COUNTY CLERK.

State of Kentucky
Washington County Sct

I W W Brooks Clerk of the Washington County court do certify there are the Original Marriage Bond & Minister's return of the Marriage of Thomas Lincoln & Nancy Hanks which are on file in my office

Given under my hand and seal of office at Springfield Ky this 21st day of January 1892

W W Brooks clerk
Washington County court

GOVERNOR ISAAC SHELBY. 1750—1826

Farmer, Soldier and Patriot, and the First Governor of Kentucky.

Governor Shelby was born December 11, 1750, near North Mountain, Hagerstown, Md. He was a lieutenant in his father's command in the battle fought at the mouth of the Kanawha, October 10, 1774. He first came to Kentucky in 1775, was employed as a surveyor by Henderson & Company, who established a land office in their territory for land purchased from Indians. The following year he returned to Virginia, having been appointed a captain of a Minute Company; in 1777 he was appointed by Governor Henry of Virginia as commissary of supplies for militia; was in the commissary department for several years. In the spring of 1779 he was elected to the Virginia Legislature from Washington. In the same year was commissioned major by Governor Jefferson. By his own survey his land was found to be within the boundary of North Carolina. He was then a citizen of that state and was soon after made colonel of the new county of Sullivan. In 1780 he came to Kentucky to look after the lands located for himself on his former visit. On his return home he was requested by Governor Charles McDowell to furnish aid to check the progress of the British then overflowing the South. He gathered together considerable force; after two brilliant engagements against great odds at Cedar Spring and Musgrove's Mill. He originated the pursuit of Ferguson, which terminated in the battle of King Mountain October 10, 1780. In this battle the brave and impious Ferguson was killed, and new zeal added to the Republican cause. On account of this battle the Legislature of North Carolina voted thanks to him and other officers, and ordered a sword presented to each. In the fall of 1781 he served under General Marion. He was a member of the North Carolina Legislature and attended its sitting in the winter of 1781, highly commended by General Marion. He returned from service and in the spring of 1783 settled in Kentucky on the first preemption granted in the state, on which he continued until his death.

He was a member of the Convention of 1792 which framed the constitution by which Kentucky was made a state and in May 1792 was elected the first Governor of the State, serving four years with great distinction both as to state and national affairs. In 1820 he was attacked by paralysis which disabled his right leg and arm, but his mind remained unimpaired to the last. He died July 18, 1826, at Travelers' Rest.

On or before the first Day January 1812
For Value Recved I promise to pay to Thomas
Lincoln or order the Just and full Sum of
Forty Dollers witness my hand and Seal this
Seventeenth Day of May 1811 John Dye Seal
teste
Thomas Rumsey X mark

Recev.d of John Dye Three Barrels
of Whiskey & Seems in full for a
Bond which I hold against the Co.y Dye
for Forty Dollers This 14 of June 1811
Thos Lincoln
Walker Alsop

Could this be the right
Thomas Lincoln?
Jim
Kill the Copy.

James T. Hickey, Illinois State
Historical Library - Springfield, Ill.

See also:

Bleakley and Montgomery Ledger Books

(http://lincolncollection.org/search/results/item/?q=bleakley&item=41603)

Items 71200908409518 and 71200908409519

and

Bleakley and Montgomery Day Book

(http://lincolncollection.org/search/results/item/?q=bleakley&item=41610)

Item 71200908409520

Signed by Thomas Lincoln